

619254

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

This material contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States within the meaning of the Espionage Laws, Title 18, U.S.C. Secs. 793 and 794, the transmission or revelation of which in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.

SECRET

COUNTRY	USSR (Baltic)	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Soviet Naval Vessels Sighted in the Gulf of Finland	DATE DISTR.	22 September 1954
DATE OF INFO.		NO. OF PAGES	2
PLACE ACQUIRED		REQUIREMENT NO.	RD
		REFERENCES	

This is UNEVALUATED

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

1. On 22 April 1954, six Soviet naval vessels were observed off Tallinn at a distance of four to five miles. They cruised about irregularly within an area approximately two and a half sea miles in diameter, proceeding at a speed between eight and ten knots and maintaining no definite formation. After half an hour one ship went away in the direction of Tallinn.
2. The vessels, all of the same type, were about 80 meters long, with a raking stem, continuous deck, and a square stern. They had a flush foredeck and vertical bridge structure. The sides of the bridge formed the continuation of the ship's sides. The vessels had a mast with a top mast and a yard in the middle of the bridge, and a squat smokestack with a slanting smoke hood aft of and projecting a little from the bridge superstructure. An island-like structure was located between the midship section and the fantail and two deck superstructures standing close together were in the middle of the fantail. The after superstructure, which was rounded off, was probably a gun turret.
3. Also on 22 April 1954, a group of five vessels of uniform type, coming from the direction of Tallinn, was sighted south of Porkkala. No distinguishing marks could be made out because of the distance, which was about five miles. The vessels, which were between 80 and 90 meters long, had a raking stem and a flush deck running from stem to stern. A squat smokestack with slanting hood projected from the low vertical bridge. The bridge appeared to be flush with the vessel's side. A box-shaped deck structure was aft of the smokestack. Some unidentified low deck structures were between this structure, which closely adjoined the smokestack, and a destroyer island which was between the aft end of the midship section and the forward end of the fantail. A low deck structure, probably a gun turret, adjoined this structure on the forward third of the fantail. The vessels had square sterns. A mast

SECRET

STATE	X	ARMY	X	NAVY	#X	AIR	#X	FBI		AEC	
-------	---	------	---	------	----	-----	----	-----	--	-----	--

(NOTE: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#".)

SECRET [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

-2-

with a topmast and a small yard was in the middle of the bridge, and a little above the bridge was a crow's-nest or a searchlight. The vessels, which proceeded in line ahead, frequently altered course. After about half an hour, the formation broke into groups of two, laying screens of white smoke. After another 30 minutes, the vessels re-appeared from the smoke screen in line ahead and turned off in the direction of Tallim. An hour and a quarter later the vessels disappeared over the horizon.

[REDACTED]

SECRET [REDACTED]